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Message Text

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15
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 DHA-02 ORM-01 AID-05

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R 260400Z SEP 75
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0503
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USUN NEW YORK 0994
CINCPAC
CINCPACFLT
FOSIF WESTPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 11967

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINS ID PO PT AS
SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE TIMOR (PT) DEVELOPMENTS

REF: JAKARTA 11764

BEGIN SUMMARY: FIGHTING CONTINUES AT RELATIVELY LOW
LEVEL IN PT, BUT FRETILIN ATTACK ON UDT HEADQUARTERS
ON INDONESIAN BORDER SEPT 24 RESULTED IN SEVERAL
MORTAR ROUNDS LANDING IN INDONESIAN TIMOR AND REPORTED
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INDONESIAN CASULTIES. INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY

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PLANNING PROTEST TO GOP OVER INCIDENT, BUT SUHARTO
INSISTING THAT GOI NOT OVER-REACT. PRESS CONTINUES
REPORT CLAIMS BY ANTI-FRETILIN LEADERS OF MISUSE OF RED
CROSS AND OTHER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BY FRETILIN FORCES,
AS WELL AS DENIALS OF INDONESIAN INVOLVEMENT IN PT AND
CLAIMS OF WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR MERGER WITH INDONESIA.
AMERICAN REPORTER JUST RETURNED FROM INDONESIAN-PT BORDER
AREA FOUND ANTI-FRETILIN LEADERSHIP DISPIRITED AND LARGELY
INACTIVE AND OPINED THAT ANTI-FRETILIN GROUPS
LACK CAPABILITY OF REGAINING CONTROL OF PT IN ABSENCE
LARGE-SCALE GOI ASSITANCE AND PROBABLY DIRECT GOI
INTERVENTION. HOWEVER, GOI INTELLIGENCE-CONNECTED SOURCES
HAVE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT GOI NOT TAKING APPARENT REVERSES OF
PRO-INDONESIAN PT FORCES SERIOUSLY AND ANTICIPATES
CONTINUED MILITARY ACTIVITY LEADING TO FRIENDLY VICTORY
IN MARCH/APRIL 1976. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING JAKARTA PRESS REPORTS, FIGHTING IN PT
CONTINUES AT RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL. PRINCIPAL EVENTS
REPORTED OVER LAST THREE DAYS INCLUDE MORTARING SEPT 20
BY FRETILIN TROOPS OF UDT-CONTROLLED BATUGADE FOUR KILO-
METERS FROM INDONESIAN BORDER, AND AN ATTACK SEPT 24
ON HEADQUARTERS OF UDT LED "ANTI-COMMUNIST
MOVEMENT" (ACM) DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO INDONESIAN BORDER
NEAR INDONESIAN TOWN OF MOTAAIN. DURING LATTER
ATTACK, WHICH REPORTEDLY WITNESSED BY GROUP OF INDONESIAN
CORRESPONDENTS AND INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE
DR. MICHEL TESTUZ, APPROX. 20 MORTAR ROUNDS REPORTED TO
HAVE LANDED IN INDONESIAN TERRITORY KILLING SEVERAL
INDONEESIANS, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF PT REFUGEES. STATE
NEWS AGENCY ANTARA CITED "UNCONFIRMED REPORTS" THAT 200
FRETILIN TROOPS HAD ENTERED INDONESIAN TERRITORY AT
VARIOUS POINTS DURING COURSE OF ATTACK. ATTACK RE-
PORTEDLY ULTIMATELY REPLUSED WITH 15 FRETILIN DEAD. OTHERWISE,
VIRTUALLY NO ACM-INITIATED ACTIVITY REPORTED SINCE REFTEL.

2. PARLIAMENTARY VICE SPEAKER ISNAENI ISSUED STATEMENT
IN KUPANG CALLING FRETILIN ATTACK "VERY SERIOUS" AND VIOLA-
TION OF INDONESIAN TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY TO WHICH INDO-
NESIA "CANNOT REMAIN SILENT." AIDE TO SUHARTO ADVISOR
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ALI MURTOPO TOLD EMBOFF SEPT 26 THAT GOI WAS PREPARING
"PROTEST" TO GOP OVER INCIDENT, BUT THAT PREESIDENT SUHARTO
HAD CAUTIONED AGAINST "OVER-REACTION" AND WAS MAINTAINING
PREVIOUS POLICY OF RESTRAINT. DEFMIN (ALSO ACTING FONMIN)
PANGGABEAN SEPT 26 TOLD PRESS PRESIDENT CONSIDERED SHELLING
OF INDONESIA "SERIOUS" AND HAD ORDERED STRENGTHENING OF
INDONESIAN BORDER POSITIONS. PANGGABEAN WARNED FRETILIN
THAT INDONESIA WOULD COUNTERATTACK IF FURTHER ATTACKS ON

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INDONESIAN TERRITORY OCCURRED.

3. JAKARTA PRESS MENWHILE CONTINUES REPORT STATEMENTS BY ANTI-FRETILIN LEADERS AND REFUGEES CLAIMING FRETILIN MISUES OF RELIEF SUPPLIES, USE OF CIVILIANS IN COMBAT, ETC. REPORTS CLAIM FRETILIN UTILIZING FOOD PROVIDED BY RED CROSS FOR ITS OWN TROOPS WHILE CIVILIAN POPULATION IN PT STARVING. REPORTS CLAIM FRETILIN ALSO USING DRUGGED CIVILIANS AS SCREEN FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS, AND ONE REPORT ACCUSES SELF-STYLED "AUSTRALINA HONORARY CONSUL" IN DILI, AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN FRANS VAVARO, OF ACTING AS SCOUT AND PROVOCATEUR FOR FRETILIN MOVEMENT. REPORTS ALSO FEATURE CLAIMS BY PRO-INDONESIAN LEADERS THAT INDO-NESIA NOT PROVIDING TROOPS OR SUPPLIES TO ANTI-FRETILIN FORCES, AND THAT MAJORITY OF PT OPULATION (LATEST CLAIMS SAY 80 PERCENT) FAVORS MERGER WITH INDONESIA. ACM LEADERS SAID TO BE STILL WAITING FOR GOI RESPONSE TO PETITION REQUESTING PT-INDONESIAN MERGER, AND HOPING FOR "CONCRETE" INDONESIAN ACTION.

4. AMERICAN REPORTER JUST RETURNED FROM WEEK-LONG VISIT TO INDONESIAN-PT BORDER AREA FOUND ANTI-FRETILIN LEADERSHIP, ESPCEIALLY UDT LEADERS, DISPIRITED AND INACTIVE. IN INTER-VIEWS WITH REPORTER, LEADERS' ATTITUDE APPEARED TO BE THAT SITUATION WAS HOPELESS, THEY HAD NO CHANCE OF VICTORY OVER FRETILIN, AND BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR INDONESIA TO STEP IN AND TAKE DIRECT MILITARY ACTION. REPORTER FOUND APPROX. 100-150 "TROOPS" IN PRINCIPAL ACM CAMP ON INDO-NESIAN BORDER (CAMPT THAT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ATTACKED BY FRETILIN SEPT 24), WHERE UDT-HELD PORTUGUESE PRISONERS ALSO LOCATED UNDER VIRTUALLY NO GUARD OR PHYSICAL RESTRAINT. ACM LEADERS CLAIMED TO HAVE SEVERAL TEAMS OF SOLIDERS OPERATING IN VARIOUS PARTS OF PT COUNTRYSIDE, AND ONE CONFIDENTIAL

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INDONESIAN REPORTER MENTIONED SIMILAR TEAMS OF NON-UNIFORMED INDONESIAN COMMANDOS OPERATING IN PT, BUT AMERICAN REPORTER SAW NO DIRECT SINGS OF SUCH ACTIVITIES. INDONESIAN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES TOLD REPORTER THAT GOI HAD GIVEN UP ON UDT MOVEMENT AND WAS CONCENTRATING EFFORTS ON SUPPORTING PRO-INDONESIAN APODETI AND SMALLER KOTA FACTIONS. REPORTER OPINED THAT BASED ON HIS OBSERVATIONS ANTI-FRETILIN GROUPS LACK CAPABILITY TO REGAIN CONTROL OF PT IN ABSENCE OF LARGE-SCALE GOI ASSITANCE AND PROBABLY DIRECT INDONESIAN INTERVENTION.

5. AIDE TO SUHARTO ADVISOR ALI MURTOPO TOLD EMBOFF SEPT 26 THAT GOI NOT CONCERNED OVER APPARENT REVERSES EING SUF-FERED BY ACM AND OTHER ANTI-FRETILIN FORCES. AIDE SPECU-LATED THAT ANTI-FRETILIN FORCES WOULD CONTINUE GUERRILLA

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ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRYSIDE REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME OF IN-
DIVIDUAL BATTLES, AND HE STATED THAT ULTIMATE VICTORY
BY THESE FORCES WAS EXPECTED BY GOI TO BE ACHIEVED BY
MARCH OR APRIL OF 1976.

6. ON NEGOTIATING FRONT, ONLY NEW DEVLOPMENT IS PRESS
REPORT SEPT 27 THAT GOP REPRESNTATIVE IN DARWIN HAS
SENT LETTERS TO UDT AND APODETI LEADERS INVITING THEM
AND FRETILIN TO TALKS IN LISBON OR MACAO. SAME REPORT
SAID UDT-HELD PROTUGUESE PRIOSNERS, WHOSE RLEASE HAD
BEEN DEMANDED BY GOP AS CONDITION FOR NEGOTIATIONS, WERE
TRANSFERRED BY UDT TO INDONESIAN CUSTODY FOLLOWING
FRETILIN ATTACK SEPT 24, BUT NO INDICATION WHETHER GOI
PLANNING TO RELEASE THEM TO GOP OR RETURN THEM TO UDT
CONTROL.

7. LATEST REFUGEE TOTALS CARRIED IN PRESS ARE APPROX.
35,000, LESS THAN FIGURE CITED REFTEL, BUT AT BEST AP-
PROXIMATE DUE TO REPORTED SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF UN-
REGISTERED REFUGEES IN INDONESIAN TERRITORY. AMERICAN
REPORTER STATES THAT REFUGEES LOCATED IN 10-12 CAMPS IN
VICINITY OF ATAMBUA NEAR INDONESIAN BORDER, AND THAT
LOCAL MEDICAL PERSONNEL STATE REFUGEES PROBABLY UNDER-
NOURISHED DUE TO REDISTRIBUTION OFFOOD BY REGISTERED TO
UNREGISTERED REFUGEES. NO MAJOR DISEASE OUTBREAKS REPORTED.
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